

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I know this is a carbon copy of all the other letters you will receive, but it does say what I feel. I do miss getting local programing like we used to get off air, like local news, sports, and weather, and hey if I gotta watch ads, I might as well watch local ads. With this merger hopefully we will with out all the 'snow', I never actually got to see a baseball game played with a ball until we got a dish. Getting broad band internet will be nice to, my current 'land line' conection is just slightly faster than a snail.

As a customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

Broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now.

I appreciate your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

John Stanley
HCR 488
Forest Grove, MT 59441